

Frederick Douglass High School
2018-2019
Summer Reading Assignment
Rising 10th Graders

For summer reading this year, you will be reading *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. This assignment will be due the first week of the school year. Please see your English teacher for a specific due date. Any and all of these assignments may be completed in in Google Docs. Be prepared to participate in a class discussion about the book.

*****Please note: If you are in English 10 Honors/IB student, you MUST complete the final project at the end of this assignment*****

Assignment:

Read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

This book can be purchased at any area bookstore or online (Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, etc), checked out of the library, or downloaded to any device.

Overview

The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country that is in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption; and an exploration of the power of fathers over sons—their love, their sacrifices, their lies.

A sweeping story of family, love, and friendship told against the devastating backdrop of the history of Afghanistan over the last thirty years, *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-kind classic.

Task 1: Read the novel and keep a dialectical journal of your thoughts while you read. *An example of a dialectical journal is attached to this assignment.* Your journal must have a **minimum of 10** entries and your excerpts and analysis should focus on important quotes from each section. Pay particular attention to why you think the author chooses to tell the narrative of the different characters. Understanding what authors do and why they do it is essential in any English class. Your journal can be kept in a Word document, in Google Docs or in a notebook.

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Task 2:

Define **25** of the following vocabulary words. Use each word in an original sentence and find a synonym. You can use the following example as a way to set up your chart. Type your responses, or keep your responses in your notebook with the rest of the assignments.

Word List:

affable	destitute	impish	palliative	serpentine
alluding	disdain	impunity	periphery	shard
aloof	droned	infidelity	portly	snippet
ambivalent	emaciated	interminable	pragmatic	surly
amiable	empathy	jostled	precipitous	surreal
arduous	epiphany	kindle	presumptuous	tactless
arid	exuded	lineage	prudence	taut
ascertain	feigned	martyr	pungent	terse
austere	foreboding	melancholic	quell	trepidation
averting	furrowed	meticulous	queries	undulating
bellowed	furtive	morose	replete	unscrupulous
benevolence	garrulous	notorious	reticence	vehemently
chasm	harried	nuance	rivulets	veracity
contrite	imbecile	obligatory	rotund	viable
cursory	imminent	oblivion	rueful	wary
daunting	impeccable	oscillating	ruminare	

Chart Example

Word	Definition	Original Sentence	Synonym(s)
affable			
alluding			
aloof			
ambivalent			
amiable			

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Task 3: Respond in a well written 1 ½ -2 page essay to **ONE** of the following prompts. You must cite direct references from the text to support your response. You should also incorporate AT LEAST 5 of the vocabulary words from *Task 2* in your response.

1. The strong underlying force of this novel is the relationship between Amir and Hassan. Discuss their friendship. Why is Amir afraid to be Hassan's true friend? Why does Amir constantly test Hassan's loyalty? Why does he resent Hassan? After the kite running tournament, why does Amir no longer want to be Hassan's friend?
2. Early in Amir and Hassan's friendship, they often visit a pomegranate tree where they spend hours reading and playing. "One summer day, I used one of Ali's kitchen knives to carve our names on it: 'Amir and Hassan, the sultans of Kabul.' Those words made it formal: the tree was ours." In a letter to Amir later in the story, Hassan mentions that "the tree hasn't borne fruit in years." Discuss the significance of this tree.
3. We begin to understand early in the novel that Amir is constantly vying for Baba's attention and often feels like an outsider in his father's life, as seen in the following passage: "He'd close the door, leave me to wonder why it was always grown-ups time with him. I'd sit by the door, knees drawn to my chest. Sometimes I sat there for an hour, sometimes two, listening to their laughter, their chatter." Discuss Amir's relationship with Baba.
4. Compare and contrast the relationships of Soraya and Amir and their fathers. How have their upbringings contributed to these relationships?
5. When Amir and Baba move to the States their relationship changes, and Amir begins to view his father as a more complex man. Discuss the changes in their relationship. Do you see the changes in Baba as tragic or positive?

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RESOURCE: Creating a Dialectical Journal

Creating a dialectical journal will be a huge help when reading any text for high school or college. It's a way to take notes, engage actively with the text, and remember important pieces of the novel when writing or discussing the text in class. You will be able to use the dialectical journal you complete for the text to complete any assignment that will be given, so the more detailed your journal, the better prepared you will be on day one of class.

What is a dialectical journal?

A dialectical journal is a conversation between you and the text; a way for you to be more than just a passive reader. You write down passages in the text that seem to “pop” off the page or have special significance. It can also be something that personally resonated with you as you were reading. This process, a type of metacognition (thinking about thinking) is very important in any English class. By writing about what you read in this way, you create meaning from the text and are more prepared to speak intelligently about the text. It also allows you to “own” the passage and make it personal to you by adding your own observations.

How to Set Up Your Dialectical Journal

Either create a table in Google Docs, copy and paste this into Word, or write this in a notebook exactly as it is shown below. Fill in the table with as many details as possible. Remember, the assignment requires a *minimum* of 10 entries; you may write as many as you feel are necessary.

<p style="text-align: center;">Important Excerpts from the Book <i>Use quotes from the text in quotation marks followed by page number in parenthesis</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Your Commentary/Reaction to the Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>Personal Connections</i>● <i>Evaluate/Question/Explain</i>● <i>Predict</i>
<p>“Quote from text written word for word goes here.” (p.1)</p>	<p>Predict and make analysis about the text here. Make sure it is in complete sentence form and that your analysis is detailed to receive full credit.</p>

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English 10 Honors/IB Extension Activity

If you will be taking English 10 Honors or are in the IB program next year, please complete the following activity in addition to the previous three tasks. (Complete assignment as a google doc.)

Letter Project

This project can be done in two ways. You could write letters back and forth between two characters from your book. Or you could think outside the box a bit more and write letters between one character in your book and another person from literature or history. What would they say to each other? How would they get along? What stories might they share? Choose this project if you think interaction between characters is more interesting than introspection from one character. Write at least two exchanges (that is four letters total properly formatted and at least a page) that reflect understanding of the complete text. Final copies should be suitable for publication.